



Bean Dog and Nugget: The Ball

Charise Mericle Harper

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Using simple text and cartoon-style illustrations, Charise Mericle Harper introduces young readers to a new graphic novel series, Bean Dog and Nugget. These two engaging characters capture young kids' actions, reactions, conversations, imagination, and humor with spot-on accuracy. Kids will want to follow Bean Dog and Nugget and their adventures in each and every book in the series.

In *The Ball*, the first book in this series, Bean Dog and Nugget lose Bean Dog's shiny new ball in a bush. They dream up elaborate and silly ways to get it back while they argue about who is actually going to go and get it. Enter Superdog and Ninja Nugget for a hilarious ending that kids will love and relate to.

Bean Dog and Nugget: The Ball Details

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Author : Charise Mericle Harper

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Misty says

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Book Review

Bean Dog and Nugget tells the story of two friends who, like all friends, play, laugh, argue, share, and overcome problems together. Bean Dog has a hard time sharing his new ball with his friend, Nugget; after some consideration, he throws it to his her, but Nugget misses the toss, and the ball goes into a bush. Hilarity ensues as the two try to get the ball out of the bush by throwing other items in after it! Together, the friends heroically get their things out of the bush – only to throw them back in again in order to repeat the wonderful adventure.

Told with simple line illustrations and few words, *Bean Dog and Nugget* is the perfect book for beginning readers. Readers can make predictions and problem-solve along with Bean Dog and Nugget, and the minimal use of written words means that readers have ample opportunities for making inferences. The action is drawn with basic boxes that move across the page in an orderly fashion, facilitating easy comprehension. Finally, the characters are likable and believable, and readers will instantly relate to their dilemmas (not wanting to share and placing blame) as well as their triumphs (problem-solving and teamwork).

Explanation of use in a curricular area

Kindergarten Math

MA 0.1 .2.a Use objects and words to explain the meaning of addition as a joining action

MA 0.1 .2.c Use objects and words to explain the meaning of subtraction as a separation action

I would use *Bean Dog and Nugget: The Ball* in a lesson about addition and subtraction. In the book, Bean Dog and Nugget throw various items into a bush, retrieve them, then throw them back in again. The characters' actions mimic a story problem: if Bean Dog throws one ball and two shoes into a bush, how many items are in the bush all together? Nugget throws two more items into the bush. Now how many items are in the bush all together? To work through the "problems" in the book, I would utilize a felt board and felt cutouts of numbers; plus, minus, and equal signs; Bean Dog and Nugget; and the bush, four shoes, and a ball. While reading the book to the class (students would sit on the floor in front of the felt board while I sat facing them in a chair), I would use the felt board cutouts to help tell the story. Each time an item was thrown into the bush, I would ask for student helpers to place the item(s) into the bush, and we would use addition to compute the total number of objects in the bush. I would model how to use the numbers to create a number sentence that represented the addition of objects to the bush, then ask for student helpers to make number sentences on the felt board the next time things were added to the bush. When Bean Dog and Nugget remove the items from the bush, we would then remove the items from the bush on the felt board and subtraction to compute the number of items remaining (in this case, they remove all objects at once, so the subtraction problem would be $5-5=0$). As with the addition problems, the subtraction problem would also be shown numerically using the felt numbers. Finally, when Bean Dog and Nugget again throw items into the bush at the end of the story, the students would once more use addition to compute the total number of objects in the book. As an extension, I would use additional felt cutouts of other silly objects (pieces of cake, teddy bears, toothbrushes, socks, etc.) and have helpers put them on the bush/take them off the bush, and we could work more addition and subtraction problems.

Kate Puleo Unger says

This book is a short chapter book kind of reminiscent of Elephant and Piggie. Two friends, Bean Dog and Nugget, play with a ball. The ball gets stuck in a bush, and they have to rescue it. Christopher read the whole thing in one sitting because it was a little easy, but the story was cute and the characters were fun. There's a second book, and we'll be getting it from the library soon.

<http://www.momsradius.com/2017/06/juv...>

Matthew Hunter says

A simple and very funny graphic novel recommended in 2014 by the ALA's Association for Library Service to Children (ALSC) for Grades K-2. The interaction between Bean Dog and Nugget has a Laurel and Hardy feeling at times:

BEAN DOG: "Wait, I have an idea! I'm thinking of something. Are you thinking what I'm thinking?"

NUGGET: "I think so."

(As Bean Dog prepares to launch Nugget by slingshot into a bush to retrieve their ball.)

BEAN DOG: "Are you ready?"

NUGGET: "NO! STOP! THIS ISN'T WHAT I WAS THINKING! WAIT!!!"

The "are you thinking what I'm thinking" play is repeated throughout the book.

The humor's innocent, but funny for adults as well as children during read alongs. Our 2-year-old Kieran couldn't stop laughing as a bored Bean Dog decides to throw the recently retrieved ball and shoes back into the bush to continue the rescue adventure:

NUGGET: "There's nothing to do."

BEAN DOG: "Oops! The ball slipped (on purpose back into the bush). Oops! My shoes slipped. Oops! My pants slipped."

NUGGET: "NO! Not the pants!"

BEAN DOG: "OK. OK. Not the pants."

NUGGET: "I'm not looking."

BEAN DOG: "You can look."

NUGGET: "Good."

Who'm I kidding. I laughed as hard as Kieran did. Thumbs up to ALSC for getting kids used to following sequential art. We'll be cracking open Marvel and DC Comics in no time.

Lindsey says

Bean dog and Nugget is a very short graphic novel. The summary of the story is there is these two friends, Bean Dog and Nugget. One day bean Dog has a new shiny ball and nugget asks him to play with it. The two ends up playing with the shiny new ball, but end up losing the ball. Throughout the rest of the story they try many of ways to get the ball back, with very creative ways. The book is a very easy to read graphic novel. The words are very simple and short, and easy to follow along with. The colors scheme stays constant throughout the whole book, the main color is mostly a burnt kind of orange. Which is the color of both characters. The panels are very close together, but have a different number of panels on each page. The gutters usually leave the reader to imagine what is happening between each panel, but in this graphic novel it tells you exactly what is happening. I would recommend this book for younger readers to first introduce them to graphic novels.

Michael Rank says

I was told that I would need to cover my mouth to cover all the laughing escaping from my lips but it turns out I'm not the target audience for this series. For parents wanting to introduce their youngest to the world of graphic novels I could see this working, but aside from that very niche audience I can't seeing them having much appeal. As a fan of incredibly odd, random humor (for example, Comedy Bang Bang) this read like something trying too hard to be odd and random.

Carol says

This book tried too hard to be cute and funny, but my eight-year-old liked it.

Deborah says

Great for beginning readers. Simple story with repeated words.

Gail Gauthier says

This went over very well with a young family member.

Crystal Sleeman says

Positive and/or Caution: This novel focuses on problem solving when bean dog loses his ball in a bush. The main characters try multiple ways to get the ball out of the bush. I don't believe this book would be very popular with my 6th grade beginning readers because of the basic illustrations.

Audience: Beginning Readers (K-2)

Applications: A unit on cause and effect, problems and solutions, or sharing.

Citation: (2013, April 08). Publishers Weekly. <http://www.booksinprint.com/DetailedV...#>

Mary Ann says

Oooh, a shiny new ball! Bean Dog is so excited to tell his friend Nugget all about it and show her. But when she asks to touch it, he pulls the ball away and says, "NO! It's special to me."

So what do you think Nugget does? Yup. She walks away. And that's NO FUN for Bean Dog. Hmm, what should he do???

Charise Mericle Harper has captured this classic moment in kids' friendships using utterly simple drawings and text. Not only will kids connect to these dilemmas, but they'll be able to understand the arc of the story through these simple drawings and words.

When Bean Dog's ball gets lost in the bushes, the friends work together to figure out how to get it back. Utter goofiness ensues, as the friends throw their shoes into the bushes. There's a particularly giggle-inducing scene when Bean Dog wants to throw his pants into the bushes. The pair discover, as kids so often do, that it's much more fun to solve the problem together and make a game out of the whole adventure.

I love the ample white space around the drawings and text. Kids who are learning to read must also learn the way comic books work. I talk with my first graders how you read them top to bottom, left to right, one panel at a time. The simplicity of the drawings keeps the focus on the dialog and plot, an important thing for new readers.

I'm guessing that kids will also have fun drawing their own Bean Dog and Nugget adventures. Get this for kids who've loved Elephant and Piggie and are ready for something a little more complicated.

Dona Teare says

5 year old loved it

Chris says

ALA recommends for K through 2nd.

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First in a series

Evaluation:

I enjoyed the simplicity of each frame. Short sentences, single words, and sounds were used to get the point across. The playfulness of the characters and storyline along with the simple drawings and brief text would help a young reader keep focused on the story.

Audience:

I selected this graphic novel because my other three had a wide range from primary to intermediate grades. This one is purely primary. It is simple and clear. A K-2nd grader would love the playful characters. They are buddies and they act goofy together. Their imaginations get the best of them. All young children can relate to losing a ball to a bush, a tree, a sewer, or a busy road.

Application:

Pre-reading-Discuss one or more of these topics:

Friendship=playing together and helping each other

Lost and Found

Imagination

Problem Solving

During and After Reading:

Prediction: Where did the ball go? Looking at clues. Inferring.

Personification could be introduced with the example of "The Bush" that come to life when it swallows up their ball. The two main characters are a hotdog and a chicken nugget personified. Class can come up with a list of things that could come to life and be personified then chose one to draw and or write about.

Onomatopoeia used (whoosh, fling, etc.) so this could be introduced or reviewed as the book is read. Class could make a list of other onomatopoeia on a classroom chart for future use when writing their own graphic novel.

Using the page in the middle of the book with the labelled illustration of Superdog and Ninja Nugget (Superheroes ready to save their ball from the evil bush), the students can create their own superhero from a food item with tools labelled to carry out their mission.

Positives or Cautions:

I see only positives with the ability of the author to appeal to lower elementary aged students in a clever way. The fact that personification, onomatopoeia, predictions, inferences, problem solving and the social skills of friendship, playing together and helping each other are all represented here is amazing for such a short and simple book.

Reed McMurray says

Bean Dog and Nugget are the two main characters in Charise Mericle Harper's "Bean Dog and Nugget' The Ball". It all starts when Bean Dog runs into Nugget, he shows her the great new ball he just got that he is so proud of. Nugget asks if she can play with the ball, or if Bean Dog wants to throw it to her, but he says no in fear that his shiny new ball will get lost. Eventually Bean Dog agrees and tosses the ball, as it then falls into the big scary bush. Bean Dog and Nugget now have to find a creative way to get the ball back without getting consumed by the big scary bush.

"Bean Dog and Nugget" is a non-fiction graphic novel that takes place on the side walk. It has a simple progressive plot that is easy for young readers to understand and follow. Young readers can also get excited about this graphic novel because it is easy to relate to, they too can go outside and play ball with their friends, and I am sure they have also lost a few balls. This graphic novel acts out every scene and action of the characters, and does not leave much time to pass in the gutters. I would also say the artist that did the drawings for this book used cartoon art, since the characters are no realistic, and the big scary bush has a lot of emotion. By the illustrator and author choosing a circular ball this could represent endlessness, or protection, since Bean Dog wanted to keep the ball, and never wanted to loss it. Overall this is a good simple text for young readers that are just beginning their journey of being a life long reader.

Kelly Kline says

1. What is the book about?

The book is about two friends that go on an adventure when they loose their ball. Bean Dog and Nugget loose Bean Dog's ball to a scary bush. The two friends dream up all these wild and silly ways to get their ball from the bush. However, both friends are too scared to go get the ball from the bush so the whole time they argue over who is going to be the brave friend and retrieve the ball. Finally, the friends get their ball.

2. What are the illustrations like?

The illustrations in this book are so cool! The author, Charise Mericle Harper, uses her thumb prints to create the two friends. It is an interesting way to create these characters. The colors are really simplistic and are repeated throughout the book. The whole book is really crazy and the illustrator uses the color orange, a really crazy color, to make the book more realistic. There aren't many shapes in the book because the book is mostly thumb prints. Also the images take up the whole page but are very small, to fit so many onto one page, which I think young readers will really like. Clean lines and a white background are easy on the eyes and make it easy to focus on the story's plot.

What can we take away from this book?

I think young readers from first grade to third grade will love this book. It's a very easy read and the book is suspenseful. The artistic style of the book is a cartoon. This book is also gender neutral, which teachers need to take into consideration, both gender will be interested and like the book.

Robin says

This book would be an asset to my collection. It is very easy to read and understand, so struggling readers could enjoy this book, as well as advanced readers. It is about two characters, named Bean Dog and Nugget. Bean Dog gets a new ball and throws it at Nugget. She doesn't catch it, and it gets stuck in the bushes. Their imaginations go wild as they think of ways to get the ball back from the giant bush monster. Students will be engaged by the wacky things that Bean Dog and Nugget do, and keep reading until the end to see if they get their ball back.

The audience for this book is 1st-3rd grade students. An activity to expand upon the book could be to have students think of another way that Bean Dog and Nugget could have gotten the ball out of the bushes. When they think of one more way to get the ball back, they will first write it down like a story. Then they can draw it on a piece of paper like a graphic novel. They will draw what Bean Dog's and Nugget's new idea will be and draw them with the necessary equipment. Then they will draw them acting out their idea and getting their ball back. The student-made pages can then be collected and bound, and then shared at storytime as if it was the real book, then used in the classroom library.

(2013, April 8). Publishers Weekly. <http://www.booksinprint.com.leo.lib.u...#>
